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Keithfield Plantation Bluff & Wharf Sites

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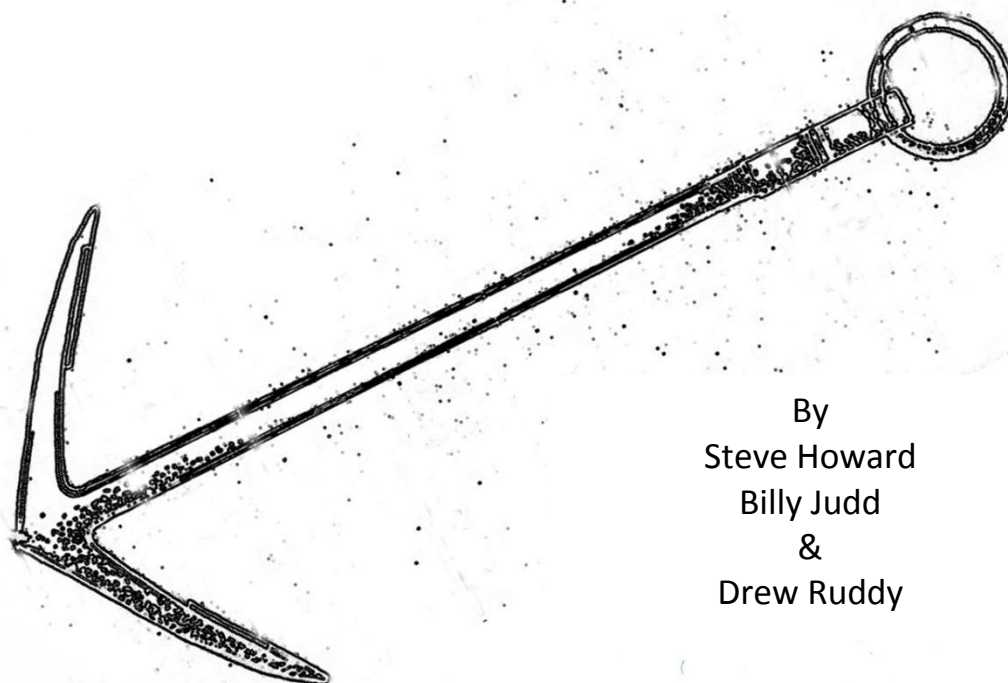
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Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site and Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site

An Avocational Underwater Archaeological Report



By
Steve Howard
Billy Judd
&
Drew Ruddy

Keithfield Plantation

On February 20, 1972, the water temperature in the Black River was logged at 48°. The tannic acid stained water limited the visibility to 3 to 4 feet with a light. Five divers, Steve Howard, Bill Ripley, Wayne Bell, Drew Ruddy and a new acquaintance simply remembered as Ed, entered the water for the first survey of the Keithfield Plantation bluff waterfront. Deteriorated dock pilings marked a former landing at the center of the bluff. The bottom near the bank and pilings was a soft mud. Tiered marl drop-offs were found as a diver progressed out into the river to a maximum depth of about 30 feet. Marl lined the bottom with a distinct gravel bed running the length of the bluff within about 100 feet of the bank. It was in the gravel bed that most of the artifacts recovered were located.

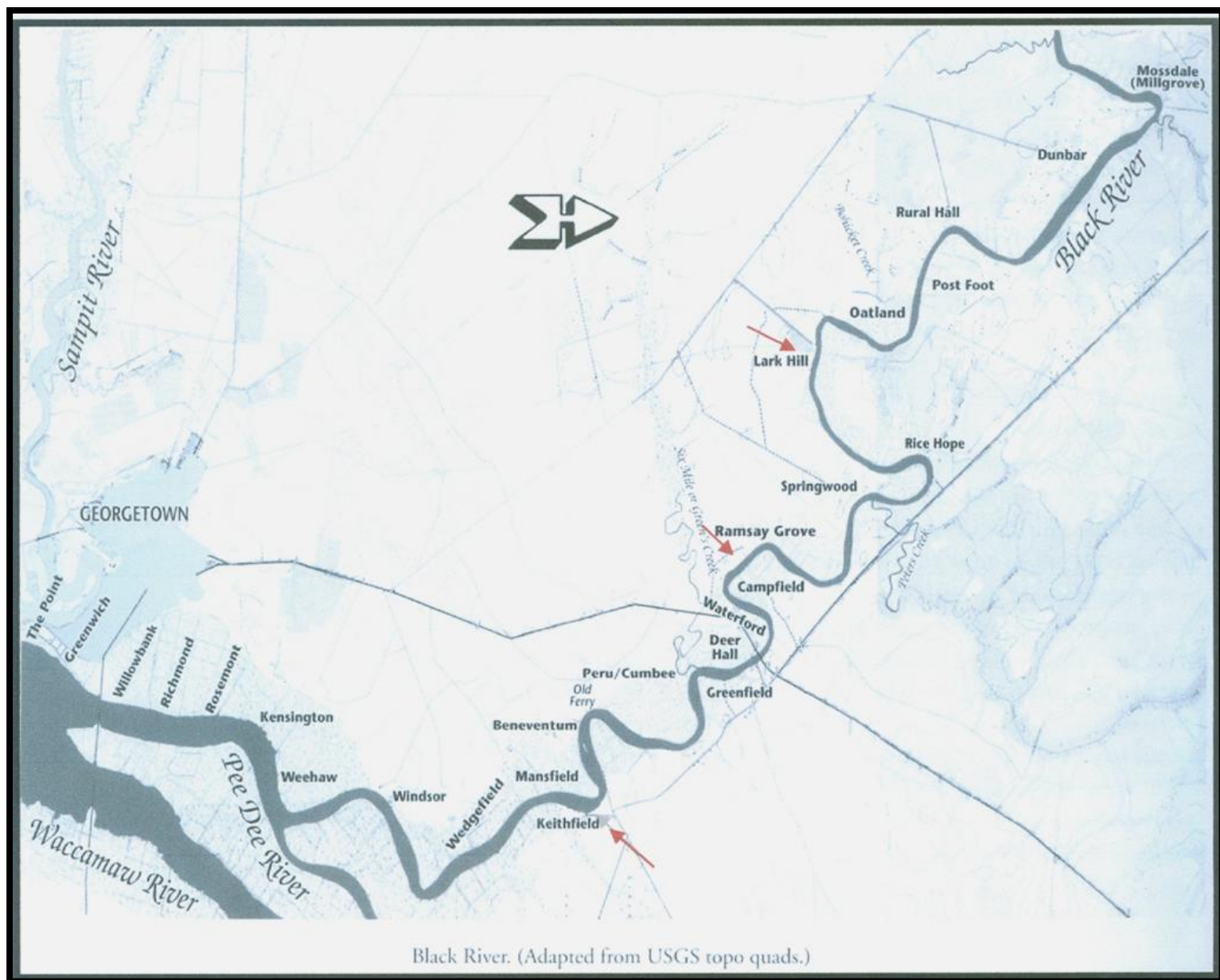
Listed as having being recovered were five mallet bottles ranging from the 1730 to 1760 period. Eight dark green glass bottles were recorded dating from circa 1760 to the mid-nineteenth century. Upon examining the history of settlement of this land, it is found that a grant of 500 acres was made to John Green on the northeast side of the Black River which bordered this high bluff. (Linder, p. 447).

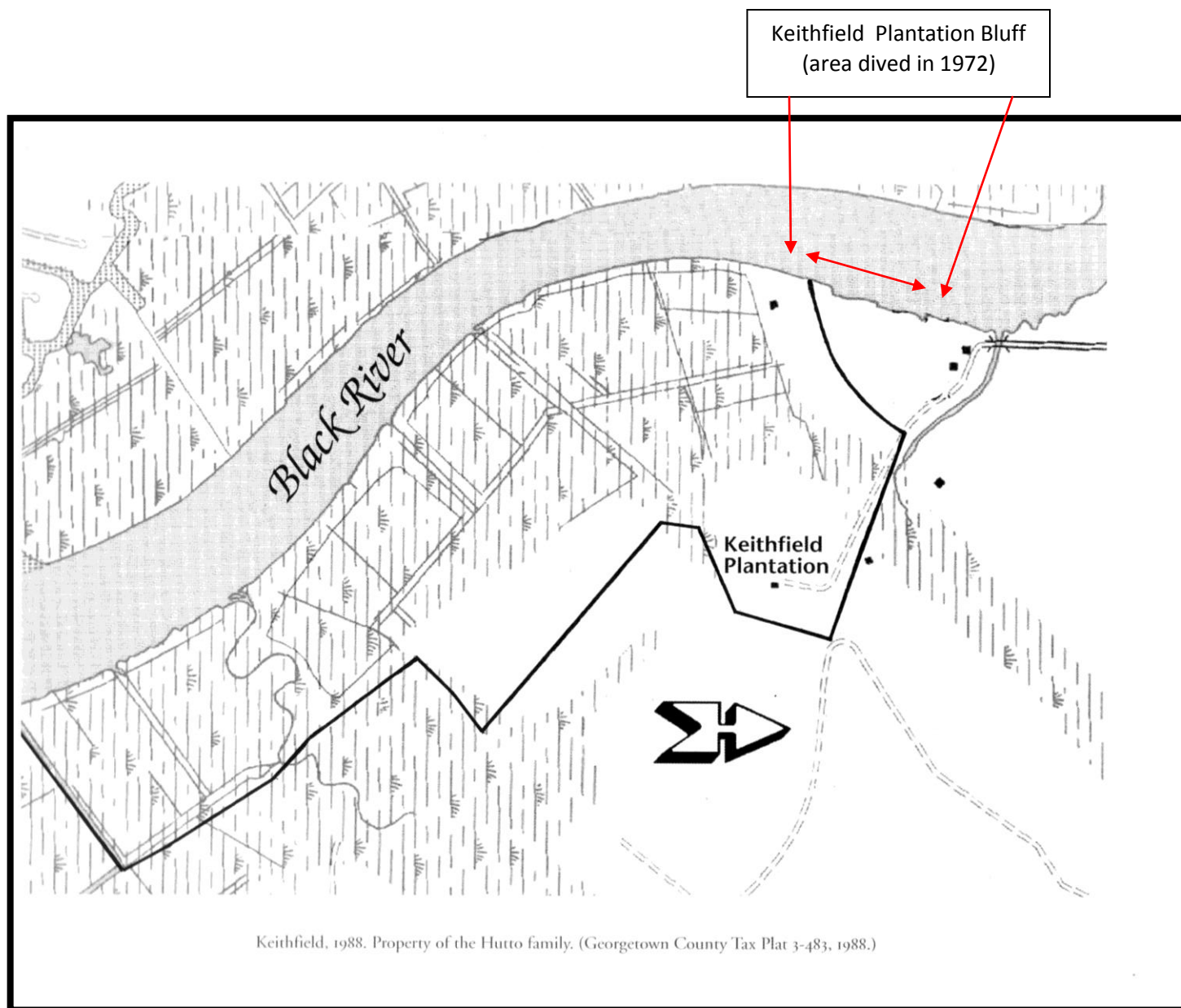


Dark Green Glass Mallet Bottles recovered from the Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site.

Circa: 1730 – 1760. These bottles date from the period of ownership by John Green and his son Richard Green.

(currently on display in the Georgetown Rice Museum)





In 1764, William Jamieson acquired the 500 acre plantation tract from Richard Green and expanded the holding an additional 155 acres. He is reported to have cultivated and produced rice and indigo. Upon his death in 1766, the title passed to his sister, Agnes Stitt. It was transferred to her son, William Stitt in 1768. John Keith acquired the estate and holdings in 1797 and his name (Keithfield) continues to be used. In addition to being a planter, Keith held a seat in the South Carolina State Senate from 1804 to 1808 and again from 1816 to 1817. (Linder: p 448).



Dark green glass bottles recovered from the Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site.

Circa: 1760 – 1797. These bottles date from the period of ownership by William Jamieson and William Stitt.

(the top four bottles are currently on display in the Rice Museum, Georgetown, S.C.)

On extended loan to the S.C.
Maritime Museum, Georgetown, S.C.



On display at The Rice Museum,
Georgetown, S.C.



On extended loan to the S.C.
Maritime Museum, Georgetown, S.C.

John Keith was a prominent Georgetown area citizen and served as the mayor of Georgetown, a director of the Bank of South Carolina in Georgetown and a trustee of the South Carolina College. Keith died in 1823 and the title to Keithfield was sold to Richard O. Anderson who also owned Ramsey Grove Plantation. Anderson successfully planted rice on his Black River plantations until his death in 1852.

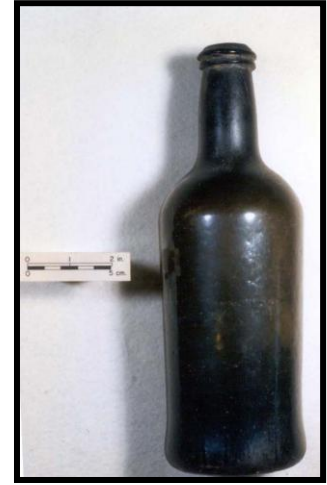
Linder, p. 448-449



Dark green glass bottles recovered from the
Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site.

Circa: 1800 – 1850. These bottles date from the
period of ownership by John Keith and Richard
Anderson.

These bottles are currently on display in the Rice
Museum, Georgetown, S.C.



Dark Green Glass Bottles recovered from the
Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site.

Circa: 1800 – 1850.

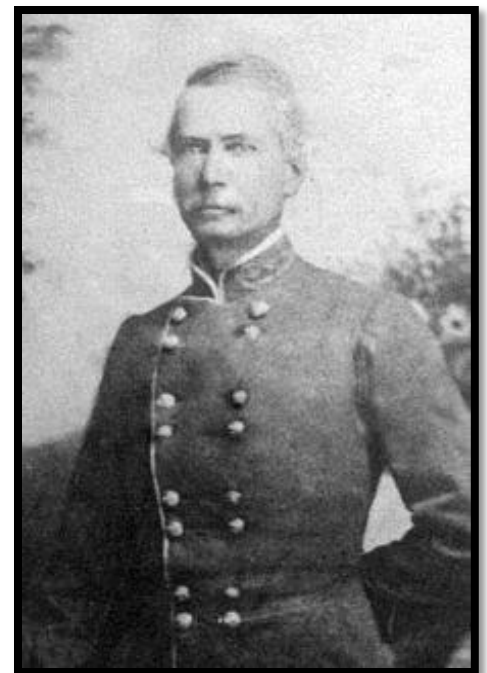
These bottles are currently on extended loan to
the South Carolina Maritime Museum,
Georgetown, S.C.

1853 saw the purchase of Keithfield by James Heyward Trapier. He came from a Black River rice planting family as his parents owned Windsor Plantation and his brother had Ingleside Plantation. Trapier's wife Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Nathaniel Heyward, the prominent rice planter of the Combahee. Trapier was a classmate of Pierre G.T. Beauregard at West Point and both graduated with honors. Beauregard ranked as second and Trapier as third in the 1848 class.

Trapier worked as an Army engineer building coastal defenses. He served in the Mexican War from 1846 to 1848. Departing from the U.S. Army in 1848, Trapier served in the South Carolina Militia with duties of aide-de-camp and chief of South Carolina ordnance. During the decade of the 1850's he expended much energy in the production of rice at Keithfield. He also operated a steam powered rice mill on the plantation.

In January, 1861, Trapier entered the Confederate Army. He served under General Beauregard as Chief Engineer for the Department of South Carolina designing and building artillery batteries in Charleston. Serving in various capacities, Trapier was stationed in Florida and in the Army of the Mississippi in the west. He was a ranking officer in the Battle of Corinth and the Battle of Farmington.

Returning to Georgetown, S.C. in the fall of 1862, Trapier took command of the Fourth Military District of South Carolina. In this capacity, he oversaw the defenses from the North Carolina line south to the Santee



James Heyward Trapier ;
Photo by George S. Cook
The South Caroliniana Library

River. Called back to Charleston in April, 1863, he commanded the Sullivan's Island garrison during Admiral DuPont's major seaborne offensive against Charleston Harbor. In early 1865, Georgetown was captured and occupied by the Union. On March 1, Admiral Dahlgren's flagship, the Harvest Moon struck one of Trapier's harbor defense torpedoes and was sunk.

Only months after the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox, Trapier died in Georgetown at the age of 50.

Linder, p. 449 ; James H. Trapier on Wikipedia

Keithfield was purchased by the Pringle family of Greenfield plantation in 1869. Due to financial complications following the Civil War, Keithfield as well as other Pringle holdings became embroiled in litigation and the title was transferred to Adger & Son in 1873. Townsend, pgs.

John P. Hazzard and his brother Elliot W. Hazzard purchased Keithfield in 1885. The family also owned Beneventum, Peru and Cumbee Plantations and grew rice as their primary crop for the next two decades. The damage done by the hurricanes of 1906 caused them to cease large scale production.

Julia Kaminski acquired the plantation in 1915 and expended much energy and resources in the restoration of the gardens and a cottage. Harold Kaminski inherited the property in 1936. Since then, ownership of the plantation has passed to Dr. Hal B. Holmes, Westray B. Hazzard and L.H. Hutto.

Keithfield Plantation was added to the National Register of Historic Places in October, 1988. The main plantation house and the cottage restored by Julia Kaminski had been destroyed during the 20th century. Of noted significance are the slave cabins and the well preserved rice field dykes, canals and trunks.

Linder, p. 449 – 450.



Keithfield Slave Cabin
The South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Keithfield Rice Field Trunk and Gate

Photo: The South Carolina
Department of Archives and History



Brick Lined Canal

Photo: The South Carolina
Department of Archives and History

Keithfield Rice Field Canal

Photo: The South Carolina
Department of Archives and History



Keithfield Plantation Bluff 2014 Survey

A survey of the Keithfield Plantation Bluff was conducted on October 20, 2014 by Steve Howard, Billy Judd and Drew Ruddy. This investigation included the taking of Lat. / Long. coordinates at the central point of the Bluff, an underwater swim to update bottom topography and the taking of topside photographs.

Bottom topography consisted of a hard marl substrate with zones consisting of soft mud, gravel, clean marl and sand deposits. Of note, the bank for the entire length of the bluff has a granite rock rip-rap erosion finish which has been constructed since the first diving in 1972. No evidence exists of the dock pilings which were located at approximately the center of the bluff, having apparently been removed at the time of the construction along the bank. The diver traveling from the bank toward the center of the river encounters a rather dramatic drop off with a marl ledge within a close distance to the shore. The marl is coated with light silt on a fairly hard bottom until reaching sections of gravel. It was primarily in the gravel beds, that a majority of artifacts were recovered in the 1970's. The diver proceeding across the river finds episodic sections of clean marl and sections with sand or silt. During the underwater survey, no historic material was observed which is quite interesting considering the amount of material at this site in the 1970's. This may be accounted for perhaps due to shifting bottom sediments or to collecting activities by divers over the intervening decades. Bottom depths averaged between 18 to 30 feet. Visibility was about 1 to 2 feet with a light.

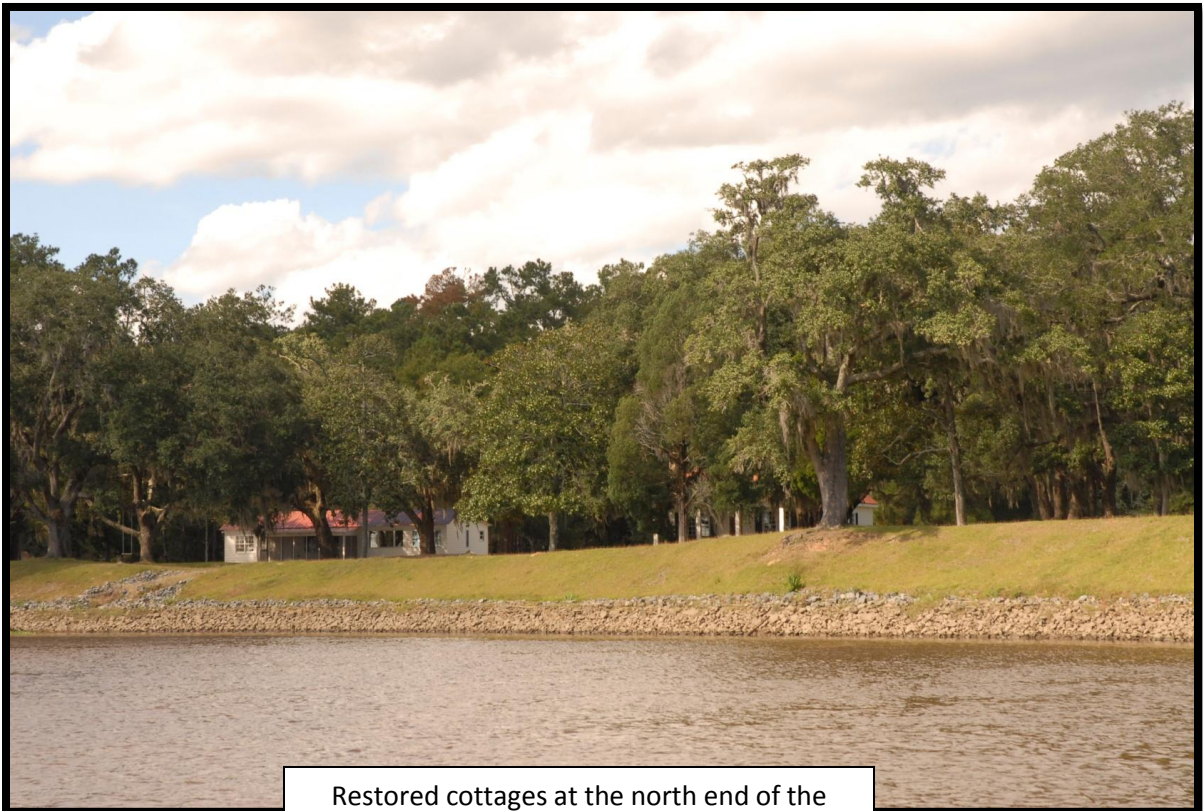


Keithfield Plantation Bluff

View from upriver. (North)



Restored cottages at the south end of the
Keithfield Plantation Bluff



Restored cottages at the north end of the
Keithfield Plantation Bluff



Keithfield Plantation Bluff

View from downriver. (South)



Tree at the center of the
Keithfield Plantation Bluff

Lat. 33° 27.170 min. N
Long. 079° 14.950 min. W
Datum: NAD 27

Additional Artifacts Recovered from
the Keithfield Plantation Bluff Site
in the 1970's



Porcelain Serving Bowl

Currently on display in the Rice Museum, Georgetown, S.C.

A photograph of this colonoware
bowl is included in the publication
Richmond Hill Plantation
1810 – 1868
by James L. Michie



Colonoware Bowl

Donated to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and
Anthropology. Photo courtesy of SCIAA.



Charles Ellis Pharmaceutical Bottle
Circa: 1860 – 1880

Embossed: *C. Ellis & Co.*
Philadelphia

On display in the Rice Museum,
Georgetown, S.C.

Dark Green Glass “Ladies Leg” Bottle
Circa: 1850 – 1900

This style of bottle is often associated with
“Boker’s Stomach Bitters”

On display in the Rice Museum,
Georgetown, S.C.



Pad Lock

Bottom photos are Keithfield
artifacts from the collection of
T. O. Barrineau
Hobby Lic. 139

SCIAA photos by Rlaph L. Wilbanks



Ball Clay Pipe
“Home Rule”



Oar Lock

Keithfield Plantation Wharf

The first dive at the Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site was conducted on March 11, 1972. Diving on this occasion where Bob Densler, Julian Muckenfuss, David West, Bill Ripley, Chris Bueter, Steve Howard and Drew Ruddy. The water temperature was estimated to have been 55° and the diving depth from 10 to 15 feet. Visibility ranged from 2 to 3 feet with a light to zero when the bottom sediment was disturbed.

The area explored was the brick rubble area fronting the wharf and extending 50 to 100 feet into the river. Approximately 70 artifacts were recovered by the group with a mean date range of circa 1880 to 1900. Artifacts recovered would indicate that the wharf was heavily used during the period of ownership by John and Elliot Hazzard.



Artifacts recovered from the Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site – March 11, 1972.
Divers left to right: Chris Bueter, Steve Howard, Drew Ruddy and Bob Densler.
Not pictured: Julian Muckenfuss, David West and Bill Ripley.
Photo: by Bill Ripley

Artifacts Recovered from the Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site - 1972



Igloo Ink Bottle



Jug
Brown Glaze



Soda Water Bottle

Embossed: *C.W. Otto & Co.*
Philadelphia



Whiteware Cup



Stoneware Ginger Beer Bottles

Approximately 15 of these bottles were recovered from this site.

Two are currently on display in the Rice Museum and two are on extended loan to the South Carolina Maritime Museum, Georgetown, S.C.



Pipe Bowl
Recovered on
October 20, 2014

Two South Carolina Dispensary bottles and numerous dark green glass bottles dating to the late 19th century were recovered. In addition to the bottles, etc. a large kedge anchor was identified by Drew Ruddy but was not recovered on that date. Bob Densler, Steve Howard, David West and Drew Ruddy returned to the site on March 14, 1972. The anchor was raised to the surface with a lift bag and towed across the river to the location of a large Cypress tree. Block and tackle rigging was established from the tree and the anchor was lifted from the water and placed in a boat.

Over the years, the anchor received some coating with rust inhibitor and paint. Having come from water with a relatively low salinity, the iron is in quite stable condition. In October, 2012, the South Carolina Artifact Documentation Project placed the anchor on display at the South Carolina Maritime Museum in Georgetown, S.C.



Raising the Kedge Anchor
March 14, 1972
Pictured are Drew Ruddy and Bob Densler



Steve Howard with anchor from the Keithfield Wharf Site
at the South Carolina Maritime Museum, Georgetown, S.C.
October 8, 2012

Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site 2014 Survey

A survey of the Keithfield Plantation Wharf Site was conducted on October 20, 2014 by Steve Howard, Billy Judd and Drew Ruddy. The wharf site is located several hundred yards below the south end of the Keithfield Plantation Bluff. Upon arrival at the site at high tide, the wharf structure was completely underwater. It could be easily located with the depth finder a few feet below the surface. After allowing for the tide to drop, much of the upper level of the structure became exposed for study. A dive was made to survey the current bottom status and to evaluate the extent of historic material which may be exposed.

The river bottom was found to be much as remembered during the 1972 dives. Much brick rubble filled in the inner confines of the wharf and extended out into the river some 25 to 50 feet from the outer parameters of the wharf. Beyond the brick rubble, the bottom turned into a rather heavy soft mud.

A few random 19th century bottle bases were encountered but left in place. One ball clay pipe bowl was recovered. During the survey, a large iron machinery component was located just to the south side of the wharf. Rough dimensions were recorded.





Assessment of the Keithfield Plantation Wharf

By Billy Judd

The construction of the Keithfield wharf is somewhat unique. Unlike the normal crib type wharf constructed of logs which project outward from the bank with their inner ends buried within the bank, the Keithfield wharf's cribbing was of squared timbers fixed upon the tops of squared timber pilings driven into the river bottom.

The pilings were aligned with one another forming a grid pattern. The tops of the pilings were cut off level with one another thereby creating a level foundation for the cribbing framework. Each level of the framework was fastened to the previous level, directly above each piling, with $\frac{3}{4}$ " \varnothing iron rods with peened heads. The cribbing framework continued upward until the desired height was reached. The framework would have then been decked over with thick planking.

The log cribbing type wharf had no piling to anchor it to the river bottom. The inner area of the cribbing had to be filled with rip-rap of stones or brick debris with dirt to stabilize it against the force of the ebb and flow current.

The construction of the Keithfield Wharf allowed very little resistance to the current which flowed freely under and through the cribbing framework. Only a minimal layer of rip-rap was needed to protect the area around and beneath the wharf against erosion.

The recovery of numerous bottles and dark green glass from earlier underwater diving suggests that a lot of activity surrounded this wharf. The presence of dark green glass suggests that the site may have been an earlier landing or possibly the site of a previous wharf.

The present Keithfield wharf probably dates somewhere around the mid 1800's and from time to time received large ships. This is evidenced by the recovery of an anchor from in front of the wharf belonging to a 600 ton ship and the recent discovery of a bilge pump flywheel used only on a large ship. Adding to these facts is the 10' depth of water at low tide fronting the wharf and the distance between the two dolphins.

It is documented that large ships in the lumber trade were towed up the Black River far passed Keithfield in the late 1800's. One such ship was the three masted schooner "Warren P. Potter". The captain of the ship stated that as the ship was towed up the river, they passed a wharf loaded with barrels of rice. The sign on the wharf said "Keithfield". The ship was being towed up river to a wharf and saw-mill on the opposite side of the river owned by Jacob Savage. At Savage's wharf the ship was loaded with lumber, knees cut flat on both sides, turpentine and shingles. Some ships were so long that it was difficult to find a place to turn them around to head back down the river.

LEGEND:

A FENDER

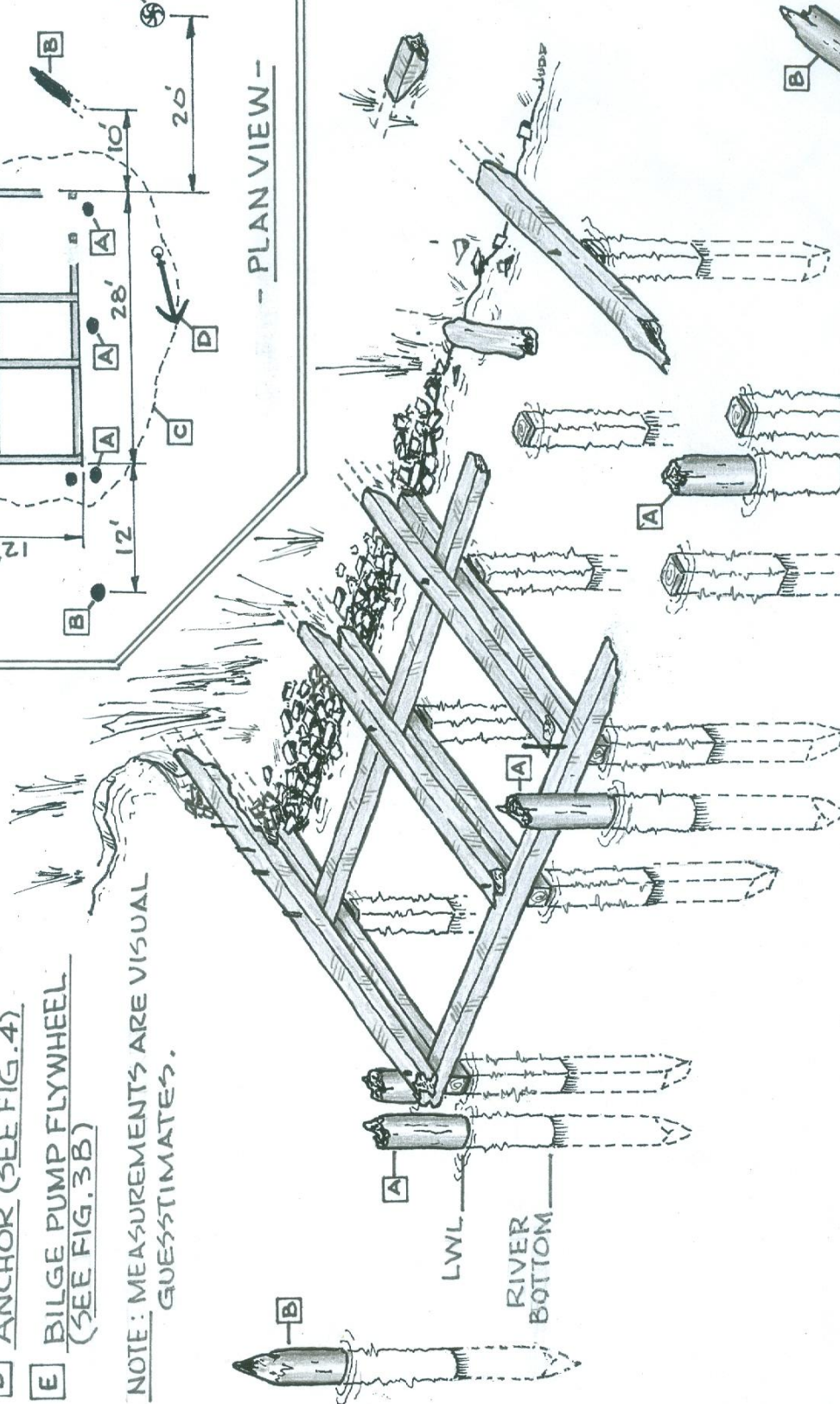
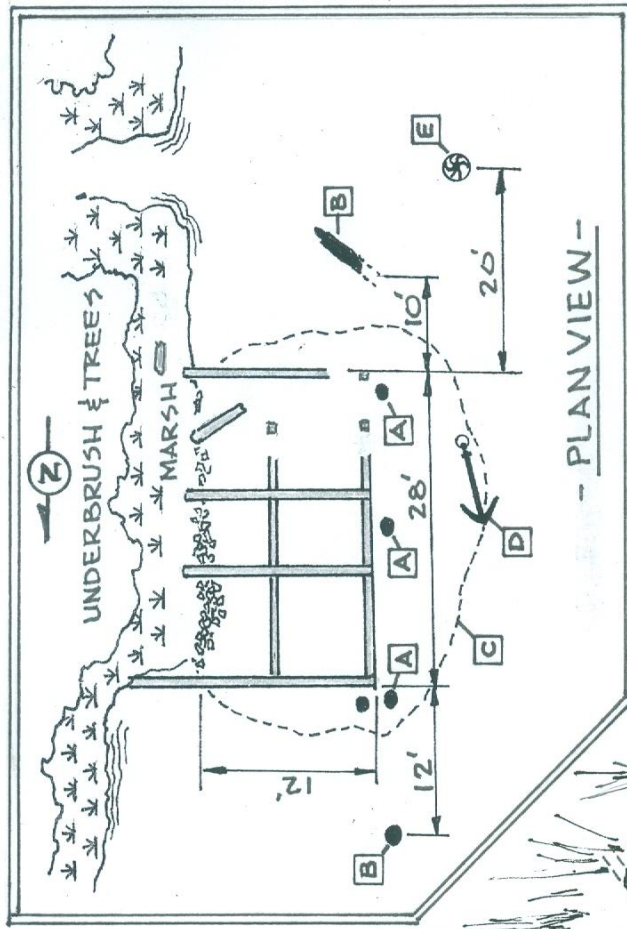
B MOORING DOLPHIN

C RIP-RAP LINE

D ANCHOR (SEE FIG. 4)

E BILGE PUMP FLYWHEEL (SEE FIG. 3B)

NOTE: MEASUREMENTS ARE VISUAL GUESSTIMATES.



KEITHFIELD PLANTATION WHARF SITE
LOW TIDE VISUAL SURVEY SKETCH (2014)

NO SCALE

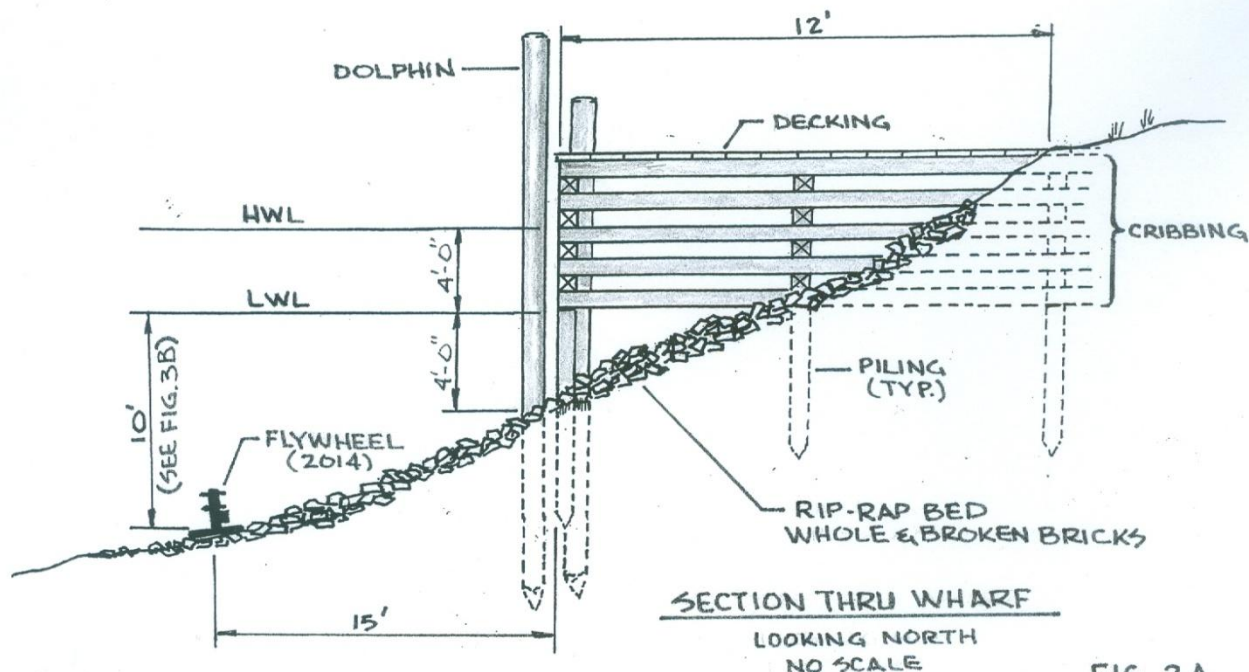
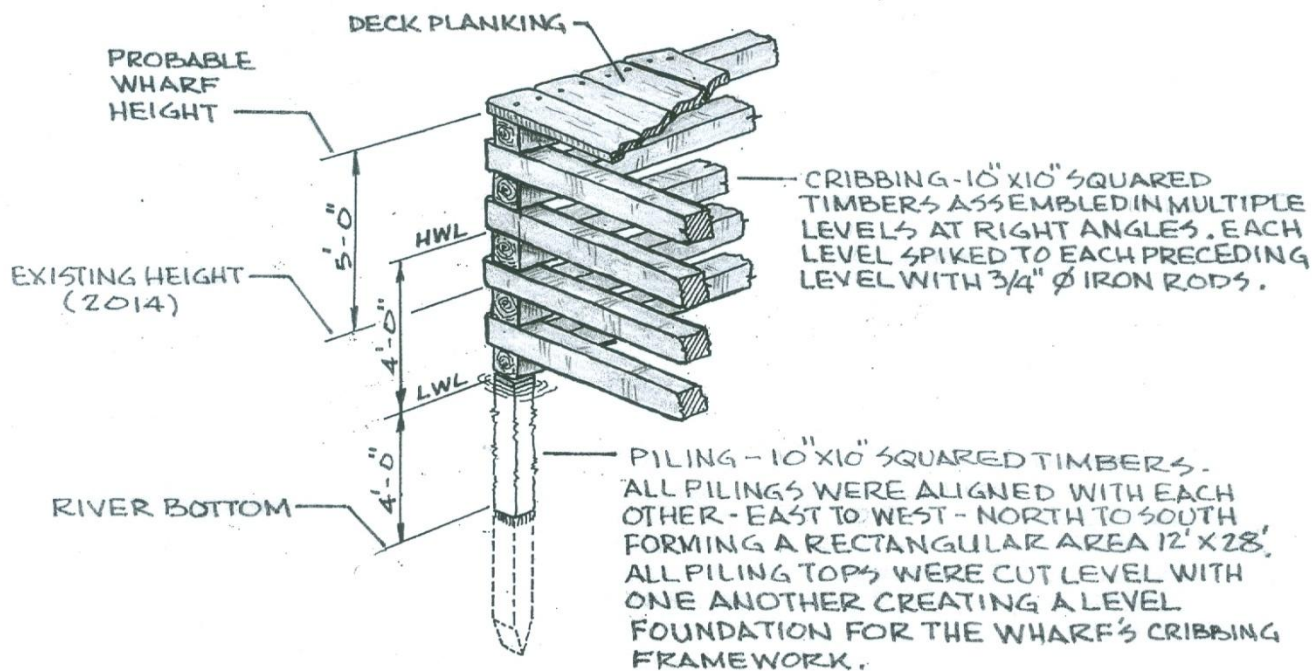


FIG. 2B

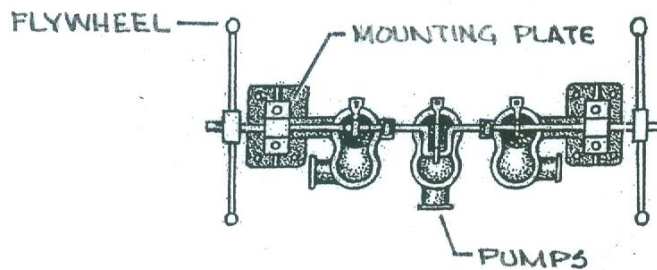
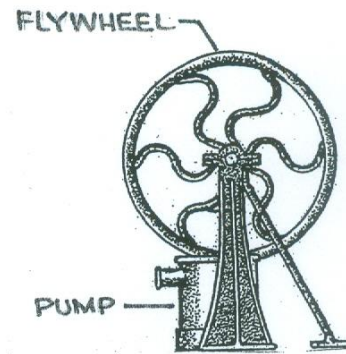
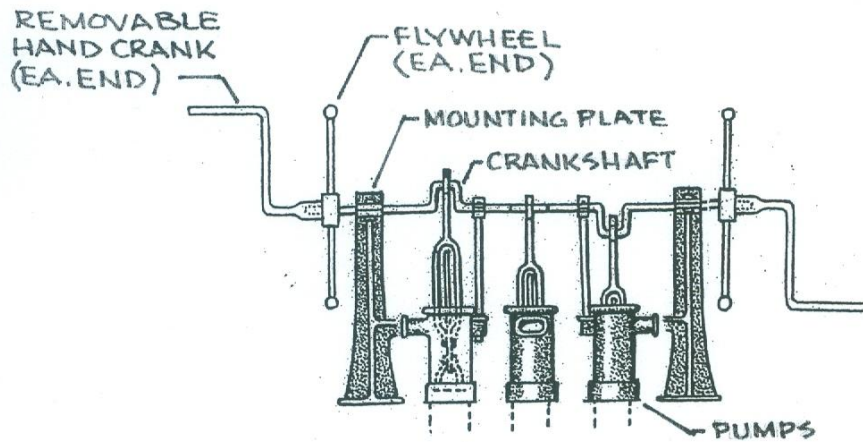


PILING AND CRIBBING DETAIL

NO SCALE

KEITHFIELD PLANTATION WHARF SITE

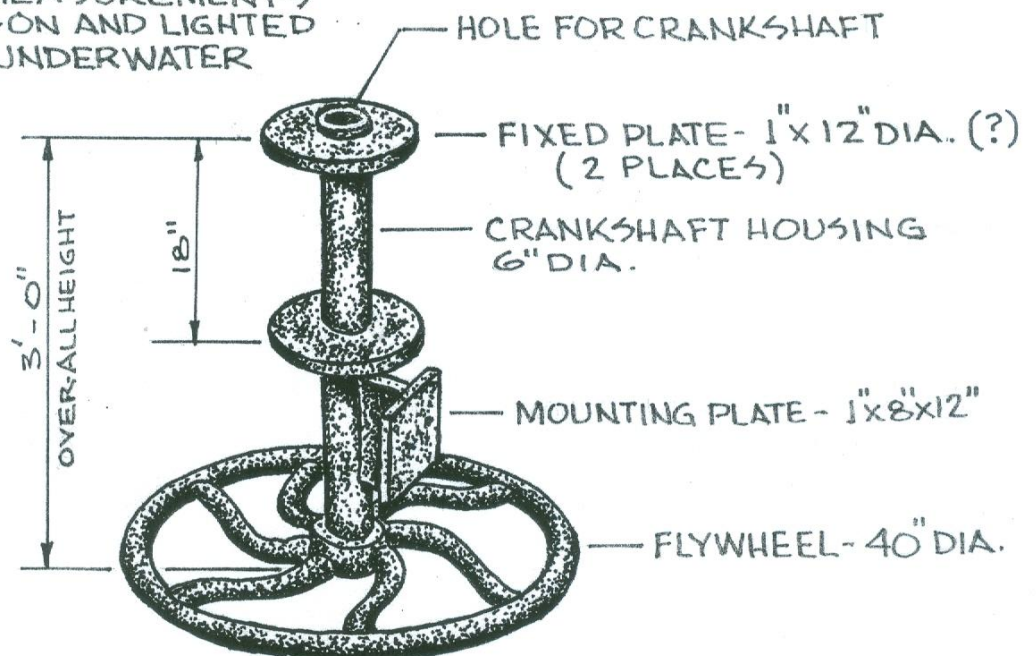
- RECONSTRUCTED DETAILS -



SHIP BILGE PUMP
FLYWHEEL TYPE
FROM 1840 ONWARD

FIG. 3A

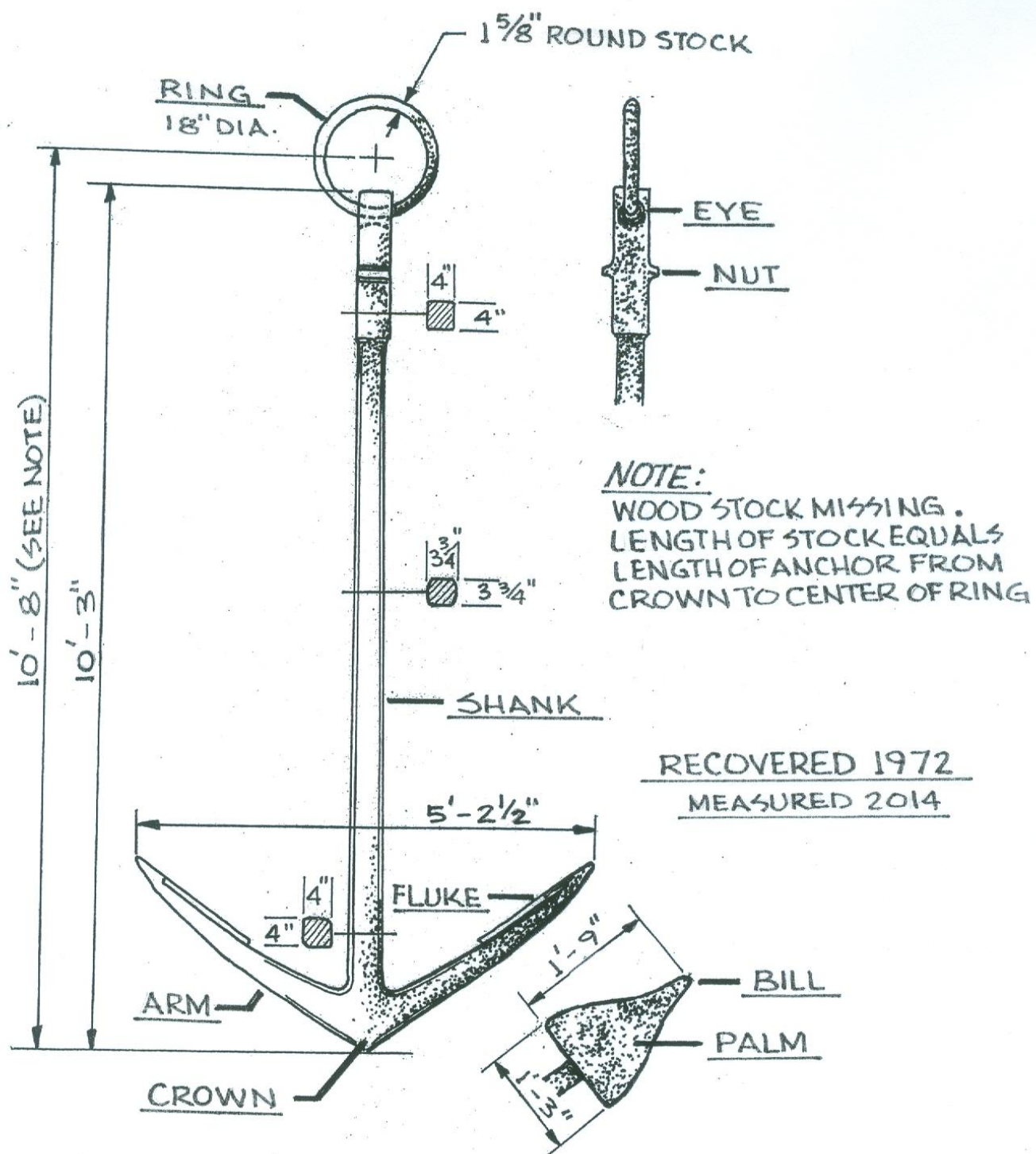
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY (2014)
DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE
GUESSTIMATED MEASUREMENTS
TAKEN BY HANDS-ON AND LIGHTED
VISION DURING UNDERWATER
SURVEY.



CAST IRON BILGE PUMP COMPONENT
KEITHFIELD PLANTATION WHARF SITE

FIG. 3B

June



COMMON ANCHOR
(ADMIRALTY TYPE)

KEITHFIELD PLANTATION WHARF SITE

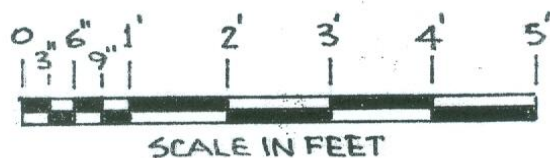


FIG. 4

JUDG



A 3-masted schooner, having been
towed up the river by a steam tug,
loads lumber at a sawmill wharf.
Courtesy of Maine Maritime Museum

UP RIVER FROM KEITHFIELD ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF
THE RIVER LOOKING DOWN RIVER (SOUTH)
JACOBSAYAGE'S WHARF & SAW-MILL(?)

McAlister; *The Life and Times Of Abram Jones Slocum*
Georgetown Sea Captain

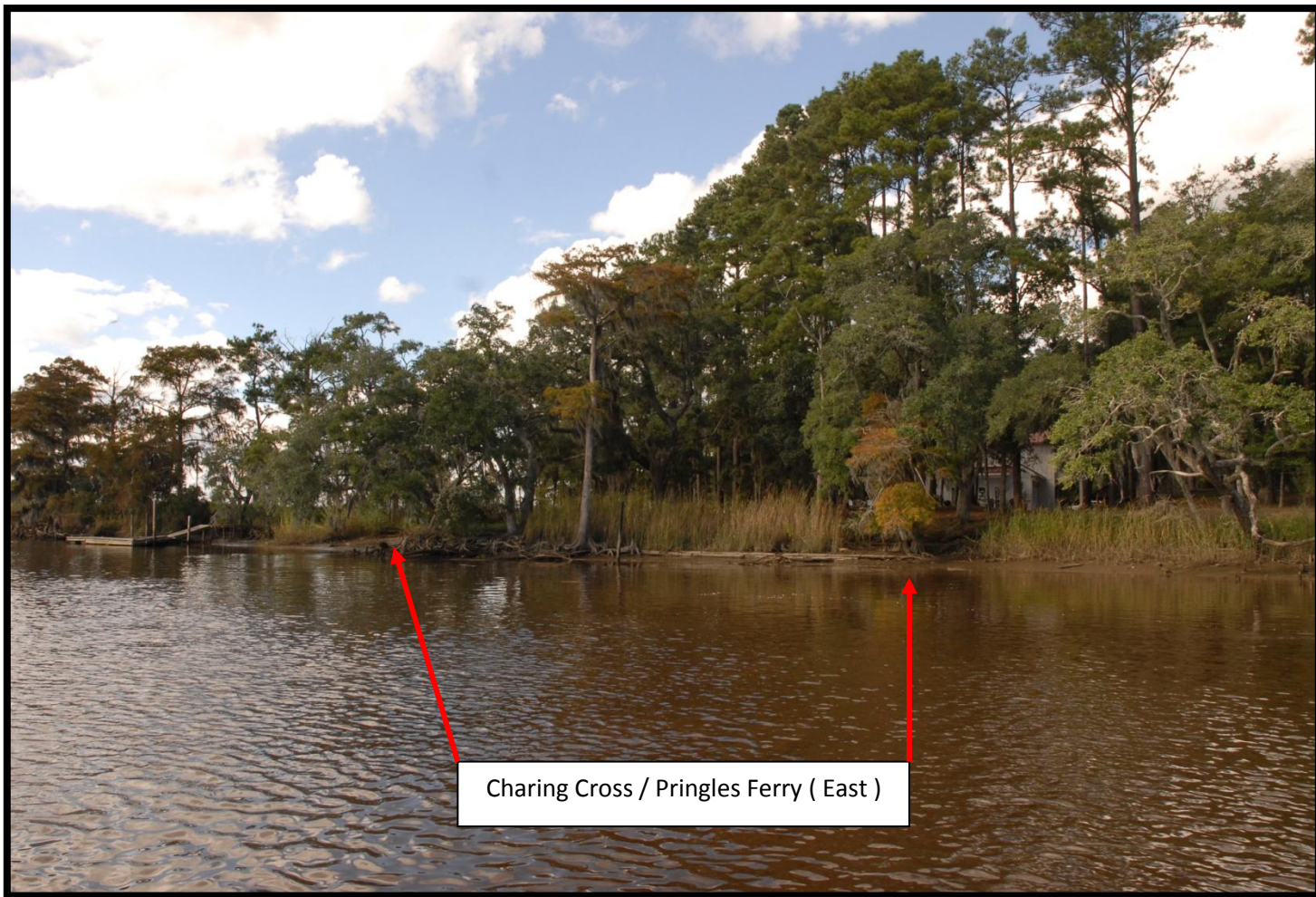
FIG. 5

Charing Cross / Pringles Ferry (East) State Site Number 38GE591

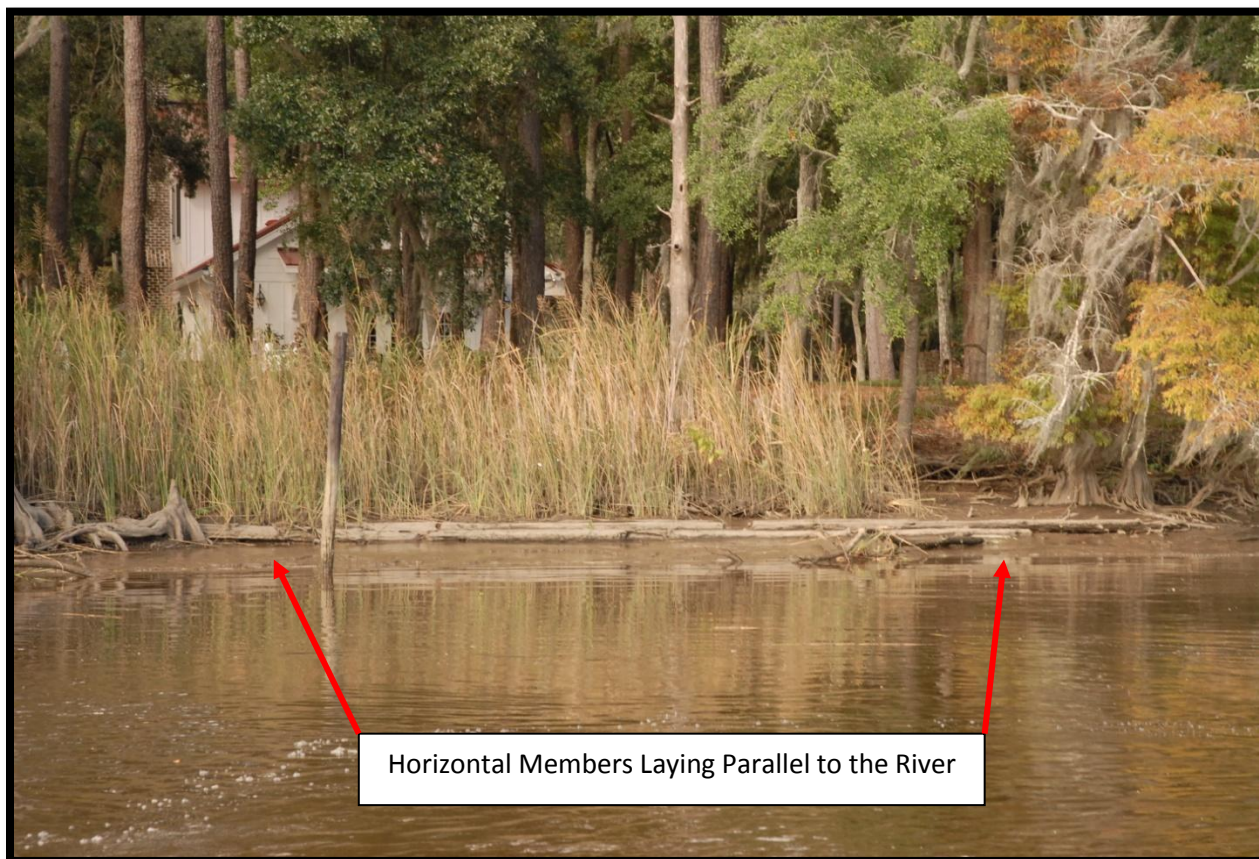
The first dive at the east landing of the Charing Cross / Pringles Ferry site was made on February 21, 1972. Divers were Jack Williamson, Steve Howard, Bill Ripley, Chris Bueter, and Drew Ruddy. Water temperature was logged at 47° and visibility at 3 -4 feet with a light. Artifacts recorded as being recovered were 4 dark green glass bottles dating circa 1775, one dark green glass bottle dating circa 1850, one jug dating circa 1850 and a stoneware ginger beer bottle.

On October 20, 2014, surface photos of landing features exposed at low tide were taken. No underwater survey was conducted.

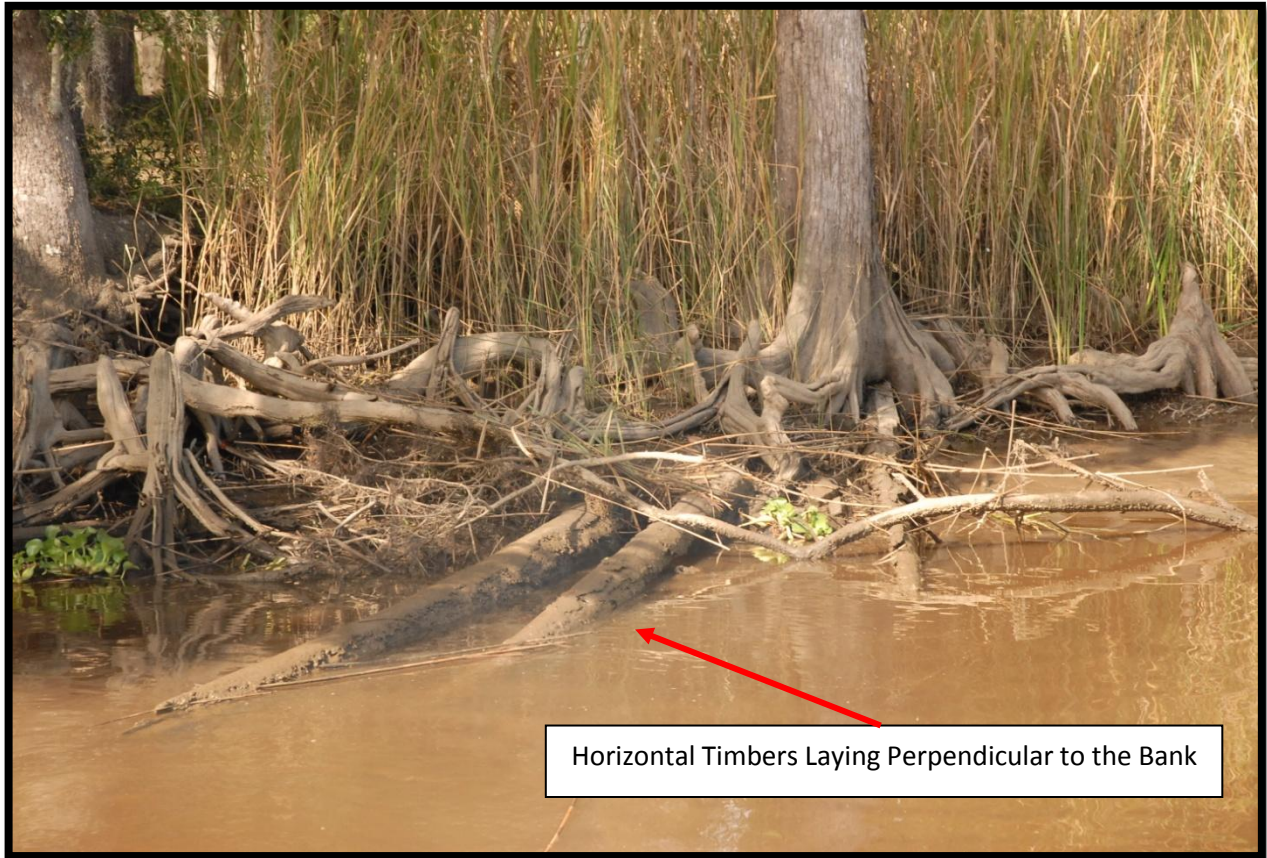




Charing Cross / Pringles Ferry (East)



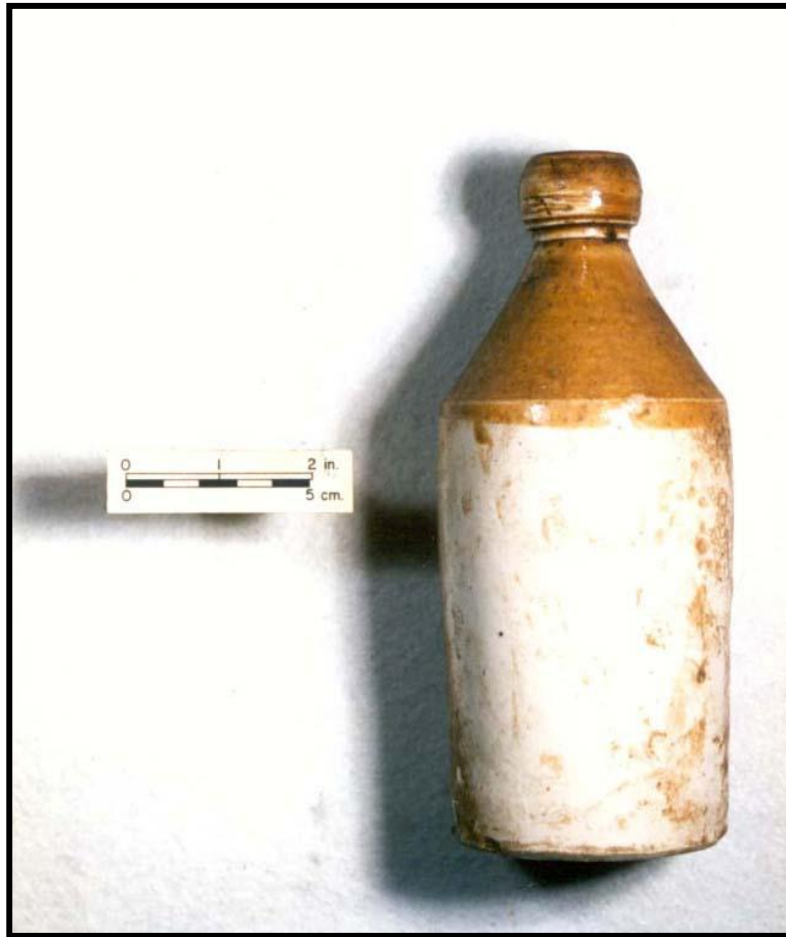
Horizontal Members Laying Parallel to the River



Horizontal Timbers Laying Perpendicular to the Bank



Horizontal Timbers / Brick Rubble Fill



Stoneware Ginger Beer Bottle Recovered from the
Charing Cross / Pringles Landing Site (East) in 1972.

On display in the Rice Museum, Georgetown, S.C.

Charing Cross Ferry / Pringles Ferry State Site Number 38GE33

The Charing Cross / Pringles Ferry Site was first dived and reported to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology by Hampton Shuping. He reports having dived this location on March 27, 1975 and recovered 18th century dark green glass bottles. He also reported that ball clay pipes and dispensary bottles were found.

On October 20, 2014, a survey was conducted and site dynamics were found to be much the same as described by Mr. Shuping. The bottom varied from hard marl, to sand or silt. A large quantity of ballast rocks were found. A significant drop off with a steep marl ledge was encountered toward the middle of the river and deeper water. During this survey, a few random bottle bases were found and left in place. One South Carolina Dispensary bottle was recovered.



Dark Green Glass Bottles Recovered
from the Pringles Ferry Site by
Hampton Shuping in 1975.
Circa: 1740 - 1760

Pringle's Ferry

Dr B. Williams
Property

Max. Depth 45 ft.

Old Dock
①

Public
Private
Docks

Mud
Ledge

Cypress stumps
&
slacks feet

Dock

① Broken glass wine bottles
Found here 4/27/75

Sketch of the
Charing Cross / Pringles Ferry Site
made by Hampton Shuping in 1975.

TO
C'TOWN
↓

17

Pringle's Ferry

BENEVENTUM
(30)

Location: On the Black River near old Beneventum Plantation not far from Georgetown. Take Hwy 701 and then turn on the road to the Plantation. The ferry crossed the river at what is now Dr. Benton Williams' property. Beware of his wife as she carries a shotgun and knows how to use it (and ^{HAS} will use it).

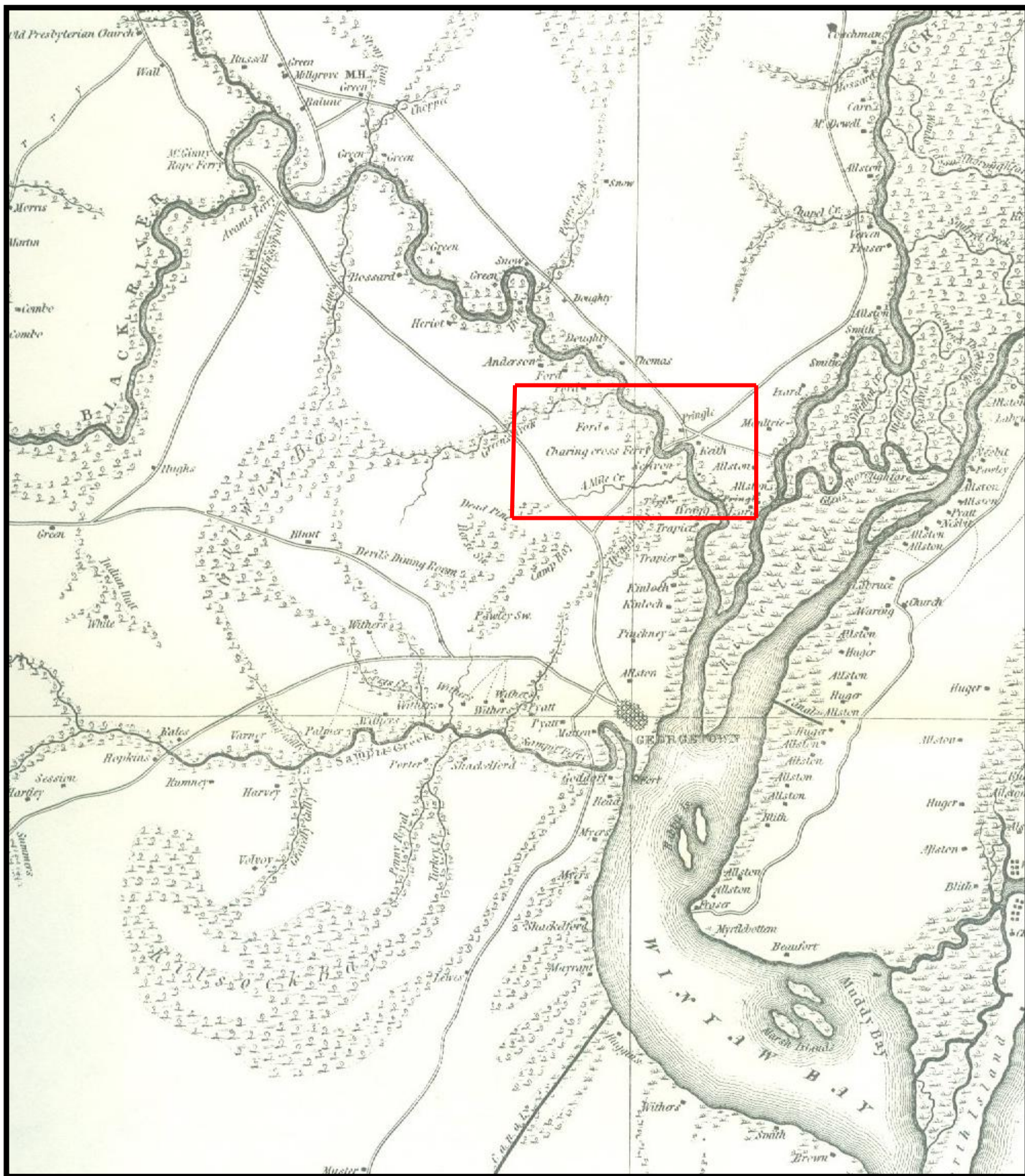
~~I'm not sure the spelling of Pringle's is correct, & it could possibly be Ringler. Local divers have come to know this Pringle's.~~

It ~~is~~ is an excellent dive site. Entering from the public boat ramp at the end of the road head upstream to in front of the Williams' property. Here there are hundreds of rounded ballast stones with black glass fragments, clay pipes, and dispensary bottles scattered with them. There is also what appears to be an old dock sunk here.

At mid-stream the depth can reach 40-45 feet and has many old cypress stumps around. Many small sharks teeth can also be found toward mid-stream.

The area downstream from the public boat ramp also looks promising as this is where the plantation was & and there are pilings there.

Beware of the property owners as they become very agitated at trespassing divers.



1825 Mills Atlas Map
Charing Cross Ferry, Pringle and
Keith are shown.

References

Linder, Susanne Cameron and Thacker, Marta Leslie; *Historical Atlas of the of the Rice Plantations of Georgetown County and the Santee River* (Columbia, S. C. - South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 2001) pp 351; 398; 446-450

McAlister, Robert; *The Life and Times of Georgetown Sea Captain Abram Jones Slocum, 1861-1914* (History Press, 2012) pp 35-36

Mills Atlas; Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825; (Southern Historical Press – New Material Copyright 1980)

Townsend, William Hay; *Reports of Cases Heard and Determined by the Supreme Court of South Carolina, Volume 11* (Columbia, S.C. R. L. Bryan Company, 1880)

Wikipedia; Article on James Heyward Trapier



South Carolina Dispensary Bottle
½ Pint Flask
Recovered on October 20, 2014

